Group meeting held on 21.11.2005, the area under wheat cultivation reported so far during the current year is 51.23 lakh hectares which is higher by about 6 lakh hectares than the corresponding area reported last year for this period. Assuming favourable weather conditions, adequate rainfall, no major outbreak of pest and diseases during the rest of the rabi season of 2005-06, the production of wheat during 2005-06 is expected to be as per the target. As far as the production of onion is concerned, no target was fixed for 2005-06. As per the National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF) the production of onion in 2005-06 is expected to be around 60.34 lakh tonnes, marginally higher than that in the last year, assuming that favourable weather conditions would prevail.

(c) and (d) India is a net exporter of wheat and onion. During the current year, the export of onion so far has been much less than that during last year in view of high prices prevailing in the domestic market. Some quantity of onion is reported to have been imported by private traders.

Ongoing Railway projects in Southern Railway

*59. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing Railway projects under the Southern Railway;

(b) the details of the estimated costs alongwith details of funds allocated to each of these projects, project-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of the project works are not progressing satisfactorily due to inadequate fund allotments;

(d) if so, whether steps have been taken to release adequate funds to speed up the completion of these works;

(e) if so, the details thereof, project-wise; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) Details of the ongoing Railway projects under Southern Railway indicating anticipated cost, expenditure incurred upto March, 2005, outlay provided during 2005-06 and status alongwith target date for completion wherever fixed is as under:—

SI. No.	Name of the Project	Anticipated cost (Rs. in crores)	Expend. upto March, 2005	Outlay 2005-06	Status alongwith target date for completion wherever fixed
1	2	3	4	5	6
NEW LINE					
1.	Karur-Salem (85 kms)	229.88	70.66	2	333.845 hectare out of 343.78 hectare of land has been acquired, Earthwork & bridgeworks have been taken up.
2.	Angamali-Sabarimala (146 kms)	550	5.62	1	Final location survey has been completed upto Pamba. As per communication from State Government, it has been decided to terminate this new line work at Azutha.
3.	Kottayam-Erumeli (43 kms)	200	0.35	1	In view of stiff resistance from the local people and recommendations of the State Government to drop this project, necessary action has been initiated to drop this project.

4. Tanur (Kuttipuram)-Guruvayur (50.23 kms) GAUGE CONVERSION	137.71	7.16	1	Final location survey has been completed upto 38 kms. The work has been stopped due to local agitation in Tanur Vettom and Vadakekkad Gram Panchayat area. This matter is being pursued the State Government.
1. Madurai-Rameshwaram (161 kms)	243	66.24	25	Madurai-Manamadurai (48 kms) has been completed. Manamadurai -Mandapam (96 kms) is targeted for completion during 2005-06.
2. Trichy-Manamadurai (150 kms)	213.14	21.17	50	Bridgework and ballasting have been taken up. Work on Tiruchchirappalli-Pudukottai (52 kms) is targeted for completion during 2005-06.
3. Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur & Tenkasi-Virudhunagar (357 kms)	462.61	176.68	31	Virudhunagar-Tenkasi has been completed. Quilon-Punalur is targeted for completion during 2005-06.
4. Tiruchhirappalli-Nagore-Karaikala(156 kms)	172.69	137.76	4.79	Tiruchchirappalli-Thanjavur section has been completed. Thanjavur-Thiruvarur section is targeted for completion during 2005-06.

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Villupuram-Katpadi (161 kms)	239.23	6.36	10	Earthwork and minor bridges has been taken up.
6.	Thanjavur-Villupuram (192 kms)	231	59.33	50.01	This project is under implementation by M/s Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL). Thanjavur-Kumbakonam has been completed. Work on Kumbakonam-Mayiladuturai (32 kms) is targeted for completion during 2005-06.
7.	Cuddalore-Salem Via Vridhachalam(191 kms)	261	77.98	85	Vridhachalam-Cuddalore (57 kms) has been completed. Vridhachalam-Attur 83 kms) is targeted for completion during 2005-06.
	DOUBLING				
1.	Madurai-Dindigul (Excl. Ambaduturai-Kodaikannal Road) (47.49 kms)	73.19	322	15	Final location survey has been completed.
2.	Irugur-Coimbatore (17.70 kms)	38.66	17.41	1	Work on Coimbatore-Coimbatore North has already been completed. Works; have been taken up in the balance length,
3.	Attipattu-Korukkupet 3rd line (18 kms)	70.56	20.15	20	Earthwork, bridge works & ballasting have been taken up between Korukkupet and Ennore (12 kms). This section is targeted for completion during 2005-06.

4.	Pattabiram-Tiruvallur-4th line (15.06 kms)& Tiruvallur-Arakkonam-3rd line (26.83 kms)	71.94	33.96	15.80	Pattabiram-Tiruvallur4th line has been completed. 3rd line work between Tiruvallur and Arakkonam is being imple-mented by RVNL where Final Location Survey Geo-Technical investigations have been completed.
5.	Chennai Beach-Korukkupet-3rd line (4.1 kms)	55.23	0	10	This project is being executed by RVNL. However, the project is being examined further as the same was not found bankable.
6.	Chennai Beach-Attipattu-4th line (22.1 kms)	50.23	5	10	This project is being executed by RVNL. However, the project is being examined further as the same was not found bankable.
7.	Ambathurai-Kodaikannal (14.56 kms)	22.95	0.01	2.21	Final Location Survey has been completed.
8.	Calicut-Mangalore (221 kms)	572.51	505.92	10	218kms out of 221 kms of doubling have been completed. The doubling is being taken to Kankanadi instead of Mangalore. On balance length, earthwork and bridge works have been taken up.

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Cheppad-Haripad patch doubling (5.28 kms)	14.39	0.99	2	Final location survey has been completed. Papers for land acquisition has been submitted to State Government. Tenders for earthwork and bridgeworks have been processed.
10.	Cheppad-Kayankulam (7.76 kms)	21.48	5.48	2	Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition papers have been submitted to State Government. Tenders for earthwork, minor bridges and ballasting in yards have been processed.
11.	Ernakulam-Mulanturutti (17.37 kms)	58.23	24.5	12	Earthwork and Bridge works have been taken up.
12.	Shoranur-Calicut (86 kms)	188.13	135.27	15	Calicut-Kuttipuram section has been completed. The project is targeted for completion during 2005-06.
13.	Mavelikara-Chengannur (12.3 kms)	33.65	1.97	5.65	Final location survey has been completed. Papers for land acquisition has been submitted to State Government. Tenders for earthwork and minor bridges, platform have been opened.
14.	Mavelikara-Kayankulam (7.89 kms)	21.84	6.76	5	Final location survey has been completed..Land acquisition papers have

				been submitted to State Government. Tenders for earthwork and minor bridges have been processed.
15. Mulanturutti-Kuruppantara (24 kms)	79.94	0	0.01	New work included in the supplementary budget 2005-06. Preparation of plans and estimates has been taken up.
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT PROJECT				
1. Tirumailai-Vellacherri-Ph. II (11 kms)	733.39	571.9	3.39	Track works have been completed from TirumailaitoTaramani(7.91 kms) and the section between Tirumailai and Tiruvanmiyur (5.95 kms) has been opened for passenger traffic. Remaining section from Tiruvanmiyur to Vellacherry is expected to be completed during 2006.07
RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION				
1. Emakulam-Trivandrum (320 RKM)	162.32	149.98	10.92	252 RKM has been energized till March, 2005. Work on rest of the section has been taken up and targeted forcomple-

tion

by Dec. 05.

(c) to (e) The outlay for projects in particular State is done based on a transparent formula having weightage of 15% each for area and population of the State and 70% for throw forward of projects in the State. Project-wise allocation is based on progress of the project, operational requirement and overall availability of resources.

A number of initiatives have also been taken to augment resources for expediting completion of the ongoing projects. These include sharing by State Governments, Public/Private Partnership, funding from Ministry of Defence, additional resources for National Projects and non-budgetary initiatives for National Rail Vikas Yojana, Remote Area Rail Sampark Yojana has also been announced in 2004-05 which envisages investment of about Rs. 20,000 crore in next five years. However, the funds for the Yojana are yet to be tied up. With these efforts, it may be feasible to expedite the progress of ongoing projects. In view of severe resource constraints and heavy throw forward of ongoing projects, it is not feasible to fix time schedule for all the projects.

(0 Does not arise.

Rail infrastructure in Orissa

*60. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that industrialization of Orissa would necessitate development of rail infrastructure particularly from Jaipur, Paradeep, Gopalpur, Jharsuguda, Raigada, etc.;

(b) whether this will also necessitate immediate rail linkage from Kalahandi to Gopalpur to meet the needs of industrialization of the backward areas with a view to improving the economy of this region; and

(c) if so, the action plan of Government to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) A number of new line, gauge conversion and doubling works have been taken up to meet the demand of traffic. These include Daitari-Banspani, Haridaspur-Paradeep, Angul-Sukinda, Talcher-Bimlagarh, Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh new lines, Jharsuguda-Sambalpur, Cuttack-Barang, Khurda Road-Barang,